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BIBLE THOUGHT

*I will give thanks unto Thee forever. Is. 30:12.*CPYRGHT **Tying Down The CIA**

HENRY J. TAYLOR, whose syndicated column appears on this page, has been giving the Central Intelligence Agency a hard time lately—and with good reason.

TAYLOR's argument goes like this: The CIA enjoys a position of special privilege in our Federal Government, and the privilege is being abused. Because of the nature of its work, the CIA operates under a mantle of almost total secrecy—in its cooperation, its personnel and its budget.

The result is that the agency has expanded far more than is necessary and its personnel labors in an atmosphere of freedom from accountability that no other Government arm enjoys. According to TAYLOR, the CIA frequently outnumbered the State Department in overseas locations and its spending is much more lavish.

The most damaging part of TAYLOR's indictment is that the end-product of the CIA's operations does not seem to justify the amounts being spent. Washington's unpreparedness for developments in such spots as Viet Nam, Cuba, Panama and elsewhere doesn't exactly build confidence in our overseas intelligence.

No one can quarrel with the idea

that the CIA must be given a special kind of treatment in Washington. Certainly it would not be in the best interest of the nation if our intelligence operations were made an open book. No doubt the budget and expenses must be kept secret.

But along with this prerogative go certain special responsibilities. First, the heads of the CIA itself owe it to Congress and the nation to see that their operations are as efficient and economical as if their books did have to be laid open to public scrutiny.

Secondly, PRESIDENT JOHNSON and those few members of his Administration and Congress who are kept informed on CIA work have an extra responsibility to hold the agency under close scrutiny—for the very reason that no one else can do it.

If the CIA is becoming, as TAYLOR charges, a horrible example of irresponsible, overblown bureaucracy, this nation is being tragically deceived—at a terrible cost that cannot be measured in dollars.

Control of the CIA goes right to the top of our Federal Government. Ultimately the PRESIDENT must hold the reins on this vital national agency.